



Personal Health Records: Emerging Policy Challenges

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CONNECTING FOR HEALTHSM
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Main Themes

- Significant, pluralistic interest right now
- Major uncertainties about the path forward
- Interim policy development needed
 - to encourage innovation and responsiveness
 - *and* to support eventual interoperability

Major uncertainties

- Tethered or not
- Patient-controlled or not
- Comprehensive or specialized approach
- Functional or structural approach
- Interaction with care redesign
- Physician support, comfort, liability
- Links to other digital data (e.g., home monitoring)
- Investment and financing models
- Role of government and other sectors

Role of government...?

- Define “Personal Health Record”?
- Set data standards for PHR? For PHR interoperability with EHR?
- Provide data to patients through private sector PHR products?
- Establish rules and policies for private sector PHR products?
- Develop PHR products and host patient clinical data?
- Offer clinical services (e.g., reminders) directly to patients?

Policy strategies for 2005-2006

- Encourage innovation, tailoring to needs
- Lay groundwork for interoperability with health system
- Lay groundwork for consolidation of data across time and space
- Learn where short-term value lies
- Keep in mind long-term opportunity to redesign health system

Next steps for CFH

- Continue to refine functional model, definition
- Identify core standards and common framework
- Carefully evaluate the role of key stakeholders
- Help early implementers share findings, adopt common framework without compromising their flexibility in the marketplace
- Support a consistent signal to the public - regarding likely benefits, their rights, their role in health
- Demonstrate value — health, clinical, service, economic — of PHR functions
- Disseminate early findings to health care, IT, policy communities